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<NEWS TICKER>

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UNCLAS 6T

Venezuela: Zulia Governor, Family Reportedly Held by Coupists

PA0402132992 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1250 GMT 4
Feb 92

[Telephone report by unidentified individual]

[Text] I am calling from Radio Popular and Radio Reloj because I want to report what is going on in Zulia Department. This is completely different from what government spokesmen have been saying.

The governor, his family, and the secretary of the government are being held at the governor's residence by the 200th Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement, headed by Lieutenant Colonel Arias. These men wear a tricolor arm band and a red beret. We are very much concerned because this is completely different from the official version. In addition, the movement has taken over both the air base and the Libertador Garrison. We have learned that all [words indistinct] have sided with the coupists. The only unit still loyal to the government is Fort Mara.

This shows the extent to which information is being distorted, something that cannot be permitted because the people must be accurately informed. I am sad to report this to the Venezuelan people from Maracaibo because the situation in Zulia Department is not good and we are extremely concerned.

Thanks to our friends of Radio Rumbos for the chance to report to Caracas on what is going on in this department. So long.

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